

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 PER-01 SY-05 CPR-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SCA-01 SP-02

/054 W

-----121307Z 039803 /47

R 111825Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7282

INFO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, PINT, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: DISCRIMINATORY TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AGAINST EMBOFF AND WIFE

REF: MOSCOW 6433

1. COUNSELOR FOR P&C CALLED ON DEPUTY CHIEF OF USA DIVISION FEDOSEYEV MAY 11 TO DELIVER PROTEST NOTE CONCERNING MAY 9 DETENTION OF FSIO PAUL SMITH AND WIFE (SEE REFTEL). VLADIMIR KUZNETSOV, SECOND SECRETARY IN USA DIVISION, WAS ALSO PRESENT. PRIOR TO READING NOTE, COUNSELOR INDICATED THAT EMBASSY CONSIDERS THE DETENTION "A VERY SERIOUS MATTER." FEDOSEYEV ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER MAY 10 WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR, AS PER REF, AND REPEATED THAT MFA "WOULD LOOK INTO IT."

2. COUNSELOR THEN READ FOLLOWING TEXT: BEGIN TEXT. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PROTESTS THE UNJUSTIFIED DETENTION OF SECOND SECRETARY PAUL SMITH AND HIS WIFE IN THE TASHKENT AIRPORT ON MAY 9. THE EMBASSY PROTESTS IN PARTICULAR THE REFUSAL OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO PERMIT MR. SMITH TO CONTACT THE EMBASSY DURING THE ENTIRE NINETEEN HOURS HE AND HIS WIFE WERE DETAINED.

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MR. AND MRS. SMITH ARRIVE IN TASHKENT AT 0100 ON MAY 9 AND WERE MET AT THE AIRPORT BY TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS INTOURIST OFFICIALS AND TWO OTHERS WHO DID NOT IDENTIFY THEMSELVES. MR. AND MRS. SMITH WERE TOLD THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN MOSCOW HAD ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE SMITHS WERE TO BE SENT DIRECTLY TO MOSCOW AND WERE NOT TO BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED ON THEIR PLANNED ITINERARY.

FROM 0100 TO 2000 HOURS MR. AND MRS. SMITH WERE DETAINED IN A SECOND FLOOR WAITING ROOM AT THE TASHKENT AIR TERMINAL. THEY WERE INSTRUCTED NOT TO LEAVE THE WAITING ROOM AREA, AND THEIR REQUEST FOR A HOTEL ROOM UNTIL THE FLIGHT TO MOSCOW DEPARTED WAS REFUSED.

DURING THEIR DETENTION, MR. SMITH ON THREE OCCASIONS REQUESTED THE USE OF A TELEPHONE, TWICE TO CONTACT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW AND ONCE TO CALL THE UZBEC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ALL OF THESE REQUESTS WERE REJECTED.

THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT IT HAS REPEATEDLY PROTESTED TO THE MINISTRY THE FAILURE OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO NOTIFY THE EMBASSY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS BEING DETAINED AND OF THE DENIAL OF TELEPHONE ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY BY AMERICANS UNDER SUCH DETENTION. SUCH FAILURES BY THE SOVIET SIDE CONSTITUTE SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF ARTICLE 12 OF THE US-USSR CONSULAR CONVENTION.

THE EMBASSY STRONGLY PROTESTS THE BEHAVIOR OF THE SOVIET OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS INCIDENT. IT IS UNACCEPTABLE THAT EMBASSY OFFICERS TRAVELLING OUTSIDE MOSCOW NOT BE ALLOWED TO CALL THE EMBASSY WHEN THEY WISH TO DO SO. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT THE MINISTRY TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO INSURE THAT SUCH IMPROPER TREATMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY IS NOT REPEATED. END TEXT.

3. FEDOSEYEV REPLIED THAT HE "WAS SORRY IT HAPPENED" AND REPEATED THAT MFA WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER. FEDOSEYEV ASKED IF SMITH SPOKE RUSSIAN, AS IF TO SUGGEST THAT PROBLEM MIGHT HAVE BEEN ESSENTIALLY ONE OF COMMUNICATION. P&C COUNSELOR EXPLAINED THAT SMITH SPEAKS RUSSIAN VERY WELL. CONVERSATION THEN ENDED WITH P&C COUNSELOR STATING THAT EMBASSY AWAITS MFA'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPLY TO PROTEST.

4. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION FROM AP, EMBASSY SPOKESMAN CORROBORATED THAT MR. AND MRS. SMITH HAD BEEN HELD FOR 19 HOURS IN TASHKENT WHILE ON TOURIST TRIP AND THAT THE EMBASSY HAD PROTESTED THEIR DETENTION. IN LATER CALL AP WAS TOLD THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS IN TASHKENT HAD GIVEN AS REASON FOR SMITHS' DETENTION THAT THEIR PASSPORTS WERE NOT IN ORDER. NEGATIVE ANSWER GIVEN TO FOLLOW-UP AP INQUIRY WHETHER SOVIETS HAD GIVEN ANY OTHER REASON FOR DETENTION. HOME TOWNS GIVEN AS TULSA AND KANSAS CITY. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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